



December 18, 1998

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Dear Ted,

Thank you for your letter of December 9, which arrived today.

I had a good conversation with Bonnie today after you talked to him. And as a result, I now understand your current situation better. Bonnie has informed me what I began to suspect even before your letter arrived, that the publication of *Truth versus Lies* is not your first priority. It may be that Bonnie will suggest publication of the book *after* the motion has been filed. For all I know, he may suggest not publishing it at all. So, I am prepared to wait until the situation is more fully understood, and I apologize for not coming to this understanding earlier. I was acting under the impression that you wanted the book to come out rather soon. I based this assumption on your October 9 letter where you wrote: "I'm anxious to get the book into print as soon as possible."

Again, I have a better grasp of the situation and will act accordingly by taking no further action until you and Bonnie determine that I should. The contract can be dealt with at your convenience. I am not sure that I should be the one to provide you with unbiased legal counsel. Perhaps Goodenough will be kind enough to look over the agreement, or if that is not acceptable to you, Bonnie may know someone—although I agree that he should not be overtaxed (but neither should you!). Mello has a conflict of interest, and will probably beg off, but he is honest and would do a good job.

Also: Bonnie asked me to call Rick Sallinger, which I did. As you probably know, this man has a copy of Waits' book. I found him to be an unpleasant person who wants something and who will stop at nothing to get it. He was very cagey. I was forced to tell him that I was publishing Michael's book, and I also told him that I have corresponded with you, but I told him nothing else. Here is the most important thing that Sallinger said (which was 100% pure b.s.): "The world should hear from Ted, and I want to be the one to bring him to them. I have no opinion about him or his crime. I am a reporter." This small-time correspondent from the Denver affiliate station of CBS wants to hit the big time, and he will hold the manuscript out like a carrot to "lead" you to a dubious fate. I have alerted Bonnie to this state of affairs.

I am sorry to hear that you are so swamped, and I imagine it is very trying for you to keep up with it all. I have spoken to Greenberg. I have not shared any information with him, but I have been cordial, which is not difficult since he *is* intelligent and interesting. I don't know whether his errors go much beyond vanity and petulance, but those in themselves might be bad elements to have around you right now. I hope you find an acceptable resolution. He told me that he has been writing about you despite the current "situation" (but did not specify anything), which may or may be reason to worry.

As for the damaged letters, I do still have the envelopes, but I can only guess with which letters they correspond). They were postmarked: 10/26 (rumpled in machine, color trace as if dragged across something); 11/15\* (rumpled in machine/color trace as if dragged across something); 11/16\* (small tear at top of manila envelope); 11/24\* [marked "Personal to be opened only by Mr. Friedlander"] (2 in. slit along right, short side; rumpled); 12/02\* (rumpled in machine/blue/brown color trace as if dragged across something); 12/03 (rumpled in machine); 12/illegible\* (color trace as if dragged across something; zip code smeared (w/ saliva?)). Some of the damage was more pronounced, some minimal. An asterisk indicates more pronounced damage.

I will send you money when you request it, so feel free to do so. I have already written to let you know that all of your letters, thus far, have arrived safely with the above exceptions. Some of the above may be dismissed as negligible, but I think otherwise.

Thank you for telling me about the situation vis-à-vis your review of Mello's book. As for photographs, I do think running photos in *Truth versus Lies* is a matter that might benefit by further discussion. I have been of the opinion that photographs will make the subject matter more vivid, and make it easier for people to visualize the players, and perhaps identify with you. Perhaps that will not be the response. I will consider whether or not we should include photography, and will defer to your opinion on the matter if you feel strongly against doing so.

I hope this note finds you well. Season's greetings, and all the best for the coming year.

My best,

*Dean.*

cc: Michael Mello